

RIVERS, TRAILS, AND CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE MISSION AND PLAN

The National Park Service preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education and inspiration of this and future generations. The Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout the country and the world. Mission of the National Park Service, 1997

The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program (RTCA) implements the Service's mission in communities across America. RTCA's vision for the 21st Century is a network of protected rivers, trails, and greenways that promote quality of life and link Americans to their natural and cultural heritage in parks and beyond.

RTCA Goals

Increase Protection for Rivers and Open Space and Help Establish More Trails and Greenways

- Assist communities in establishing trail networks.
- Work to protect rivers and streams--their ecosystems and watersheds.
- Encourage statewide and regional conservation strategies.
- Promote Federal interagency coordination that benefits conservation.

Strengthen Community Conservation Advocacy, Partnerships, and Stewardship

- Help establish sustainable conservation organizations.
- Assist the communities of which National Parks are a part.
- Support conservation partnerships in obtaining funding and other resources.

Enhance Conservation and Recreation Opportunities for All Americans

- Engage in projects which reflect the nation's cultural diversity.
- Undertake partnership projects in urban and underserved areas.
- Establish a strong presence in every State.
- Build a staff that represents America's cultural diversity